AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-28. (Cancelled)

29. (Previously Presented) A method for updating Domain Name System (DNS) information in response to a change in client status, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a client request to update DNS information on a DNS server, the client being subscribed to a domain name:

on receipt of the client request, assigning an IP address to the client and updating an entry in an IP address table on the DNS server such that the domain name corresponds with the assigned IP address;

determining a client status of on-line or off-line; and

responsive to off-line determination, updating the IP address table on the DNS server such that the domain name corresponds with an interactive file.

30. (Currently Amended)) The method of claim 29, wherein the interactive file comprises a first web page that is configured to provide information to the ~~first~~ client and configured to allow the first client to leave a message for[[the]] a second client.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, further comprising:

on receipt of the client request, connecting the client to a second web page associated with the client.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the second web page includes at least one of messages received while client was off-line, a time of last log-on by client, or a duration the client was off-line.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, further comprising:

on receipt of the client request, determining if the client is authorized to administer the domain name.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein the update step further comprises:

queuing the client request on a DNS update queue;

moving the request from the DNS update queue to a temporary queue; and

updating the IP address table of the DNS server with the request from the temporary queue.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34, further comprising:

notifying the client that the request has been queued; and

notifying the client that the request has been processed.

36. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 29, wherein the determining step further comprises:

monitoring arrival of a signal that is periodically transmitted by the ~~first~~ client, the arrival of the signal indicating that the status of the ~~first~~ client is on-line.

37. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 36, wherein the determining step further comprises:

determining that the status of the ~~first~~ client is off-line if the signal is not received within a predetermined time interval.

38. (Previously Presented) A method for updating Domain Name System (DNS) information in response to a change in client status, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving identification information from a client, the client being subscribed to a domain name;

on receipt of the identification information, assigning an IP address to the client and updating an IP address table on the DNS server such that the domain name corresponds to the assigned IP address;

determining a client status of on-line or off-line; and

responsive to determining the status is off-line, updating the IP address table on the DNS server such that the domain name corresponds to a first web page located on a server.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, further comprising:

on receipt of the client request, connecting the client to a second web page associated with the client, wherein the second web page includes at least one of messages received while client was off-line, a time of last log-on by client, or a duration the client was off-line.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, further comprising:

on receipt of the client request, determining if the client is authorized to administer the domain name.

41. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium containing a program for updating Domain Name System (DNS) information in response to a change in client on-line/off-line status, the program comprising the steps of:

receiving a client request to update DNS information on a DNS server, the client being subscribed to a domain name;

on receipt of the client request, assigning an IP address to the client and updating an entry in an IP address table on the DNS server to match the domain name with the assigned IP address;

determining a client status of on-line or off-line; and

responsive to off-line determination, updating the IP address table on the DNS server to match the domain name with an interactive file.

42. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 41, wherein the interactive file comprises a first web page that is configured to provide information to the ~~first~~ client and configured to allow the ~~first~~ client to leave a message for [[the]] a second client.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 41, further comprising:

on receipt of the client request, connecting the client to a second web page associated with the client.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the second web page includes at least one of messages received while client was off-line, a time of last log-on by client, or a duration the client was off-line.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 41, further comprising:

on receipt of the client request, determining if the client is authorized to administer the domain name.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 41, wherein the update step further comprises:

queuing the client request on a DNS update queue;

moving the request from the DNS update queue to a temporary queue; and

updating the IP address table of the DNS server with the request from the temporary queue.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 46, further comprising:

notifying the client that the request has been queued; and

notifying the client that the request has been processed.

48. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 41, wherein the determining step further comprises:

monitoring arrival of a signal that is periodically transmitted by the ~~first~~ client, the arrival of the signal indicating that the status of the ~~first~~ client is on-line.

49. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 48, wherein the determining step further comprises:

determining that the status of the ~~first~~ client is off-line if the signal is not received within a predetermined time interval.

50. (Previously Presented) A system for updating Domain Name System (DNS) information in response to a change in client status, the system comprising:

means for receiving a client request to update DNS information on a DNS server, the client being subscribed to a domain name;

means for assigning, on receipt of the client request, an IP address to the client and updating an entry in an IP address table on the DNS server such that the domain name corresponds with the assigned IP address;

means for determining a client status of on-line or off-line; and

means for updating, responsive to off-line determination, the IP address table on the DNS server such that the domain name corresponds with a first web page, wherein the first web

page is configured to provide information to the first client and configured to allow the first client to leave a message for the second client.

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 50, further comprising:

means for connecting, on receipt of the client request, the client to a second web page associated with the client, wherein the second web page includes at least one of messages received while client was off-line, a time of last log-on by client, or a duration the client was off-line.

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 50, further comprising:

means for determining, on receipt of the client request, if the client is authorized to administer the domain name.

53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 50, wherein the means for updating further comprises:

means for queuing the client request on a DNS update queue;

means for moving the request from the DNS update queue to a temporary queue; and

means for updating the IP address table of the DNS server with the request from the temporary queue.

54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 50, further comprising:

means for notifying the client that the request has been queued; and

means for notifying the client that the request has been processed.

55. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 50, wherein the means for determining the client status further comprises:

means for monitoring arrival of a signal that is periodically transmitted by the ~~first~~ client, the arrival of the signal indicating that the status of the ~~first~~ client is on-line.

56. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 50, wherein the means for determining client status further comprises:

means for determining that the status of the ~~first~~ client is off-line if the signal is not received within a predetermined time interval.